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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and reexamination of this application are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 is hereby amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 3 has been added. Claims 1 and 3 remain pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to further define the cells. Basis is found in the right two cells 21d, 21d having axis S3, S4 in Fig. 3 and the cells 21c of Fig. 8. Claim 1 is further amended to define "extension direction". Basis is found in Figs. 2 and 3, as well as page 7, lines 3-15.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 2 has been cancelled. The amendments of claim 1 have addressed the rejection. It is submitted that claim 1 is definite.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-019567 and also by JP 2002-240674. The Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 120(e) as being anticipated by Hall et al.

Claim 1 requires "said adjacent ones of the cells each comprising an upper portion which extends from the gas distribution path downwardly in a vertical direction and a lower portion which extends from a lower end of the upper portion in a direction inclined with respect to both of an extension direction of the pillar and the vertical direction". None of the references discloses "a lower portion which extends from a lower end of the upper portion in a direction inclined with respect to both of an extension direction of the pillar and the vertical direction". Hence, none of the references anticipate claim 1 or the claims which depend from it.

Claim 3 has been added. Claim 3 finds basis in Figs. 3 and 7.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. 29,165, at (612)455-3802.



Dated: January 30 (Monday), 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Curtis B. Hamre". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned over a horizontal line.

Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH//lad